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ITALY.

Alterations in sanitary measures concerning articles from plague-infected countries.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D. C., January 30, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your information copy of a note from the Italian ambassador at this capital reporting alterations in the sanitary measures of Italy concerning articles coming from countries infected with the bubonic plague.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure—Translation.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 24, 1900.

SIR: Referring to your note of December 23 last, I have the honor to communicate to your excellency the following telegram, which I have received from the royal ministry of the interior, containing alterations in the sanitary measures concerning articles coming from countries infected with the bubonic plague.

"By to-day's Ordinance of Maritime Health, No. 1, it is provided that animal hair shall not henceforth be included in the articles, the importation of which from places infected with the bubonic plague is prohibited; such hair may consequently be freely imported into the kingdom. Paragraph D of Article 4, of the Ordinance of Maritime Health of May 8, 1897, No. 3, and of the Ordinance of December 3, 1899, No. 16, is amended in this sense. Rome, January 24, 1900."

Respectfully,
Hon. JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

FAVA, Ambassador.

Reports from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, January 17, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that for the week ended January 17, 1900, the following ships were inspected: On January 12 the steamship *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound, with passengers and cargo, for New York. There were inspected and passed 85 cabin and 348 steerage passengers and 95 pieces of large and 356 pieces of small baggage. On January 17 the Italian bark *Leonardo* bound, with cargo, for Norfolk, Va. On January 17 the steamship *Patria*, of the Fabre Line, bound, with passengers and cargo, for New York. There were inspected and passed 346 steerage passengers and 89 pieces of large and 224 pieces of small baggage.

The Italian authorities at this port now disinfect vessels coming from Marseilles, on account of the smallpox which prevails at the latter port. The steamship *Patria*, which arrived here two days ago and which sails to-day for New York, went through this process, the whole operation being completed in about an hour.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Genoa.

GENOA, ITALY, January 22, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended January 21: The steamship *Werra*, North German Lloyd Line,

with passengers and cargo, sailed for New York, January 18. There were inspected and passed 22 cabin and 27 steerage passengers; 19 pieces of baggage were inspected and labeled.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

JAPAN.

Plague in Osaka and Kobe.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *January 12, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that since my report of December 29, the plague, though apparently checked in Kobe, has increased in Osaka, some 20 miles farther north, and where the circumstances are, perhaps, more favorable to the development of the disease than in any other city in Japan. Osaka has always been a great manufacturing center, and now the old system of small industries in the homes of the workmen has been replaced by the aggregation of large numbers of operatives in extensive factories, the sanitary condition of which has been, repeatedly, unfavorably commented upon, even before the appearance of the plague.

My last report brings the statistics down to December 26; since that date cases have occurred in Osaka only, and as follows: December 27, 1; December 31, 2; January 1, 2 (both physicians); January 2, 2; January 3 to January 5, 5; January 6, 1 (physician); January 7, 2; January 8, 2; January 9, 1, and January 10, 1. In all, as nearly as I can make out, there have been some 62 cases since the first detection of the disease, 23 at Kobe, 34 at Osaka, and 5 singly, at other localities.

Osaka has voted a sum of 30,000 yen, in addition to the 55,000 yen heretofore appropriated, for combatting the epidemic.

No case is known to have occurred in Kobe since the 23d ultimo, and that city is reported to be in exceptionally good sanitary condition. As, however, Osaka and Kobe are in every sense closely connected, I have directed Dr. Fowler, acting assistant surgeon, United States Marine-Hospital Service, on duty at the latter port, to relax no precaution as regards passengers for the United States, Hawaii, or the Philippines.

The magnitude of the epidemic in Osaka is not so alarming as its persistence and its malignant type. Nearly all the cases met with there have been of the pneumonic form, the intense infectiousness of which can be inferred from the fact that already 3 physicians and their wives have fallen victims, and from the following extract from one of the official organs, *The Japan Mail*, of January 9:

Adachi Masa, a girl employed at a factory in Osaka, was taken ill on December 18 and died on December 21. Then her parents were seized, then her brother, then her elder and younger sisters, then 4 of her fellow-workwomen, then the 2 physicians who had attended the patients, then the wives of the latter, and, finally, the jinricksha coolie of one of the doctors—15 victims in all.

The weather has been very cold of late, and there have been several hard frosts, but the infection continues active. Whether the development of the pneumonic type of the disease is connected with the meteorological state remains to be seen. The prevalence of the malady under climatic conditions certainly ordinarily unfavorable, and despite the intelligent and strictly enforced measures employed by the authorities